Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1657

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4646

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOPN, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAITI EDITORIALS ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

REF: KUWAIT 4510

1. AS IF COMMISSIONED TO SCUTTLE SINGLE-HANDED ANY PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS AT CAMP DAVID, AL-RAI AL-AM, WHICH TENDS TO MIRROR SYRIAN POLICY, HAS EDITORIALIZED CAUSTICALLY ABOUT CAMP DAVID AND USG INTENTIONS ON FOUR OF THE LAST SIX DAYS. ITS ARGUMENT IS SO WELL KNOWN NOW THAT THE PAPER DOES NOT EVEN NEED TO EXPLAIN ITS BASIC PREMISES, I.E. THAT USG HAS NO INTENTION OF OBLIGING ISRAEL TO MAKE NECESSARY UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCESSIONS AND THAT CAMP DAVID SUMMIT IS SIMPLY CONTINUING PART OF USG PLAN TO KEEP THE ARABS DIVIDED AND WEAK. ITS EDITORIALS REFLECT THE COMBINATION OF BITTER, GRUDING RESPECT FOR ALLEGEDLY OVERWHELMING AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CONVICTION THAT USG PROTESTATIONS OF GOOD WILL FOR THE ARAB WORLD HAVE BEEN TRAGICALLY TAKEN AT FACE VALUE BY TOO MANY ARABS. "THE US INTEREST

IS TO KEEP THE ARABS WEAK, SUBJUGATED AND ROBBED. THE US KNOWS THAT WHETHER CAMP DAVID SUCCEEDS OR FAILS, AMERICA'S INTERESTS WILL BE SAFEGUARDED." (AUG. 20, AL-RAI AL-AM).

- 2. AL-ANBA, IN CONTRAST, CREDITS PRES. CARTER AUG. 15
 WITH THE WILL TO DO HIS UTMOST TO COMPLEL ISRAEL TO GIVE
 UP ON THE "SETTLEMENTS" ISSUE, AND TO COMPLY WITH
 RESOLUTION 242 BY WITHDRAWING FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES,
 BUT THE PAPER WONDERS WHETHER THE US CAN IN FACT EXERT
 ENOUGH PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. THE EDITORIAL
 CALLS ISRAELI SINCERITY INTO QUESTION. FOUR DAYS
 LATER AL-ANBA COMMENTS ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLY ON PRES.
 CARTER'S STATEMENT OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. EDITORIAL URGES
 USG AGAIN TO UPHOLD RESOLUTION 242, AND REMARKS THAT PRES.
 CARTER HAS MADE CAMP DAVID A TEST OF THE PARTIES' WILL
 TOWARDS PEACE.
- 3. AL-QABAS COMES OUT BETWEEN AL-RAI AL-AM AND AL-ANBA, BUT IS ESSENTIALLY GLOOMY. ON AUG. 15 AL-QABAS NOTES THAT BOTH OPTIMISTS AND PESSIMISTS ARE RIGHT -- BECAUSE EVEN "SUCCESS" AT CAMP DAVID WILL LEAVE THE ARAB WORLD DIVIDED. ON AUG. 17 AL-QABAS PRAISES KING HUSSEIN FOR RESISTING US EFFORTS TO GET HIM ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT THE SUMMIT, AND TWO DAYS LATER THE PAPER ANALYZES USG INTENTIONS AS GETTING THE PARTIES TO AGREE TO SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR DETERMINING THE SCOPE OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, AND THEN TO REACH A BILATERAL SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD DESTROY CHANCES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE, GENEVA CONFERENCE.

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